

CLAIMS

1. A method of installing software on a computer comprising:
 contacting a software distribution medium, the software distribution medium
 5 comprising multiple software versions for installation on a computer;
 automatically locating an INF file; and
 installing a correct software version on the computer based on information
 within the INF file.

10 2. A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:
 accessing within the INF file, a source section and a strings section that
 correspond to a country code and a version of an operating system present on the
 computer;
 replacing path variables in the source section with path values from the strings
 15 section; and
 locating the correct software version based on the path values.

3. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the INF file is located in a root
 directory of the software distribution medium and the correct software version is
 20 located in a subdirectory of the software distribution medium.

4. A method as recited in claim 2, wherein the correct software version
 corresponds to the country code and the version of the operating system present on
 the computer.

25 5. A method as recited in claim 3, further comprising:
 manually locating a secondary INF file within the subdirectory; and

installing the correct software version on the computer based on information within the secondary INF file.

6. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the software distribution medium is embodied as a computer storage medium selected from a group of computer storage media comprising:

- a flash memory;
- a hard disk;
- read only memory (ROM);
- a removable floppy disk; and
- a removable optical disk.

7. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the software distribution medium is a computer storage medium associated with a remote server coupled to the computer device via a network.

8. A software distribution medium comprising:

- multiple installable software versions;
- a root INF file configured to control a software installation of any one of the multiple software versions; and
- secondary INF files, each configured to control a software installation of a particular software version.

9. A software distribution medium as recited in claim 8, further comprising:

- a root directory and multiple subdirectories;

wherein the root INF file is located in the root directory and each secondary INF file is located in a distinct subdirectory.

10. A software distribution medium as recited in claim 8, wherein each
5 software version is located in a distinct subdirectory.

11. A software distribution medium as recited in claim 8, wherein each
software version corresponds with a localized language and an operating system
version.

12. A software distribution medium as recited in claim 8, configured such
that a single INF file controls a software installation, the single INF file being either
the root INF file or one of the secondary INF files.

13. A software distribution medium as recited in claim 8, wherein the root
INF file comprises:

multiple source sections, each source section comprising variable information
for installing a software version that corresponds to a particular operating system;
and

20 multiple strings sections, each strings section comprising definitions for the
variable information, the definitions corresponding the location of a software version
configured in a particular local language.

14. A software distribution medium as recited in claim 8, embodied as a
25 computer storage medium selected from a group of computer storage media
comprising:

a flash memory;

a hard disk;
 read only memory (ROM);
 a removable floppy disk; and
 a removable optical disk.

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15. A software distribution medium as recited in claim 8, embodied as a computer storage medium associated with a remote server coupled to a computer device via a network.

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16. A computer comprising:
 a processing unit; and
 a memory with installation data, the installation data comprising:
 multiple software versions; and
 a double INF file architecture configured to direct the processing unit
 to automatically install a correct software version on the computer.

17. A computer as recited in claim 16, wherein the double INF file architecture further comprises:

20 a root INF file configured to direct the processing unit to install any one of the software versions as the correct software version on the computer; and
 multiple secondary INF files, each secondary INF file configured to direct the processing unit to install a particular software version as the correct software version on the computer.

25 18. A computer as recited in claim 16, wherein the memory further comprises:

an operating system version operable in a local language; and

wherein the correct software version is determined based on the operating system version and the local language.

19. A computer as recited in claim 16, wherein the memory is a computer storage medium selected from a group of computer storage media comprising:

- a flash memory;
- a hard disk;
- read only memory (ROM);
- a removable floppy disk; and
- a removable optical disk.

20. A system comprising:

- a computer device comprising an installation module; and
- a software distribution medium comprising a root INF file located in a root directory and secondary INF files each located in a particular subdirectory, the root INF file configured to direct the installation module to install a correct software version onto the computer device from source files located in any subdirectory, each secondary INF file configured to direct the installation module to install a correct software version onto the computer device from source files located in a particular subdirectory.

21. A system as recited in claim 20, wherein a subdirectory comprises particular source files associated with a particular software version.

22. A system as recited in claim 20, wherein a correct software version depends on an operating system version and local language of the computer device.